

10/802,126 (OPT-115)

2/1/2005

REMARKS

Please charge any required fees and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-2888. Any required extension of time for submitting the present response is hereby requested, if needed.

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Applicants note that two electronic information disclosure statements (IDS) were filed on 12/3/2004 and 12/15/2004, respectively. Copies of the two IDSes are attached to this Amendment. Acknowledgement of the two IDSes is respectfully requested. Applicants also note that a preliminary amendment correcting a small number of informalities in the specification and drawings was filed on 8/16/2004.

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Claims 1, 5, 9, and 15 were amended. Claims 1-20 are pending in the instant application.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of the subject matter of claims 2-4, 6, 8, 10-11, 14, 16-17 and 20. The rejections set forth in the Office Action are traversed below.

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35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 5, 9, 12-13, 15 and 18-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Chen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,647,173).

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Independent claims 1, 5, 9, and 15 were amended to require the recited mirror/mirrors to be fixed. The amended claims exclude the configuration shown in Figs. 5-6 of Chen et al, which employs movable mirrors. The mirrors shown in Figs. 5-6 of Chen et al. are attached to a front surface of a movable prism, and move together with the prism as the prism is shifted between switching positions. In both embodiments of Chen et al. (Figs. 3-4, and Figs. 5-6), the mirror/mirrors (21 in Figs. 3-4, 223-224 in Figs. 5-6) are movable. Thus, even if a skilled artisan would have attempted to replace a single planar mirror with two mirrors in the system of Chen et al., such a skilled artisan would not have arrived at the subject matter of claims 1, 5, 9 or 15.

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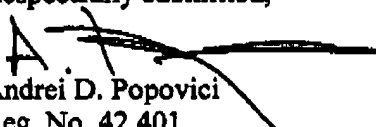
Applicants respectfully submit the instant claims to be patentable in view of the prior art of record, and request the Examiner to indicate the allowability of the instant claims in the next Office Action.

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Respectfully submitted,

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